

Mint of the United States at Philadelphia,

MELTING AND REFINING DEPARTMENT,

Philadelphia, 9th January, 1886.

Sir,

In preparing my Report on the average of Gold wastage in making Ingots for coin, I was astonished to find no previous Reports since the month of April, 1885, altho I had them in my books.

My memory of the subject is that there have been piles of Gold in my vault, ever since the more active melting in April last, and that altho we were extremely solicitous to use the space they occupied, yet I could not, because the call for Gold Ingots ceased, only one being accepted on the 28th May. The others, altho' ready, and having been prepared in the active Gold melting Period of March and April, were not called for until October, when I was relieved of two days working on the 1st and 16th October.

Agreeably relieved of a portion of the incum-

brance of gold in my vault, I daily expected further orders for delivery, but received none until some time in November, towards the close of the Month. Then, and from that time, we prepared the Gold, which was delivered as fast as prepared at six different periods in December, amounting to nearly a half million of ounces, or about \$9,000,000 ^{in ingots} ~~which~~ would make about \$4,500,000 = in coin, the remaining half being clippings.

The main object in presenting these Reports, which I suggested, and carried out many years since, was to show the tolerable uniformity of wastage on a large scale, by a comparison of many meltings, and their percentages of waste, as determined within a week, more or less, of the last melting on the Report. They are of no value in the case of one or even of two meltings, because these may vary too far from a fair standard, altho they may be part of a series of good meltings, and show, with

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MELTING AND REFINING DEPARTMENT,

Philadelphia,

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others, a good general average. They are not intended to show the amount of work done in the Melting Department, for the legal and official statement of work done is the Report of the amount of Ingots transferred to the Coiner, at given dates. They show by the uniformity of the apparent percentage of waste the excellence or faults of melting, as the case may be.

Moreover the wastages given in these Reports are not actual wastages, for the Monthly collection of grains, often from 50 to 200 oz. ^{the assay slips of every melt} and the general sweep of the Year, form a large part of the apparent daily wastages, and diminish them. They are only designed to give the Superintendent and the Melter & Refiner a fair view of the working of the M & R. Department

Very respectfully,
J. C. Booth
M & R.

Hon. D. M. Foy
Superintendent

2309

Mint of the United States at Philadelphia,

MELTING AND REFINING DEPARTMENT,

Jan 9, 1886.

Booth.

Melter and Refiner.

Relative to Report on the
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No. of Enclosures,

JAN 9 1886

U. S. MINT, PHILA.

[Abstract:] Relative to Report on the average of Gold wastage in making ingots for coins...

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Melting and Refining Department,
Philadelphia,
January 9, 1886

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NARA RG104, Entry 1, Box 137

Very respectfully,
Jas. C. Booth
M & R.

Hon. D.M. Fox
Superintendent